

Native Title in the News March 2006

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Outcome	Source	Tribunal # & Fed Court #	Case manager	Comment
23-Feb-06	NSW	<b>Local residents fear that a pending native title determination is causing violence</b>	Local residents have raised concerns over violence in Bessie Point. One couple noted that they "had been told countless times by aggressive and usually drunk Aboriginal people to 'get off their land'". They believe that the violence is linked to a pending native title determination granting the Giangurra (Bessie Point) Beach area to Mandingalbay Yidinji people.	Ongoing matter of opinion	National Indigenous Times, 23-Feb-06, pg 13.	Application: Mandingalbay Yidinji People #2 - Tribunal File Number: QC00/8; Federal Court Number: QUD6007/00	Mark Price	
23-Feb-06	NSW	<b>Kimberly Land Council</b>	The Kimberly Land Council is seeking compensation for areas around Broome where native title has been extinguished. Even though the Federal Court had ruled in favour of the Yawuru people "native title may have been extinguished in areas where the rights to land use have been handed over to other parties by the State government".	Ongoing	National Indigenous Times, 23-Feb-06, pg 14.	Application: Walman Yawuru - Tribunal File Number: WC04/9; Federal Court File Number: WAD285/04. Determination: Rubibi # 6 - Tribunal File Number: WC95/28; Federal Court File Number: WAD91/98	Sandra Barkla	The Rubibi litigated determination was handed down on the 7th November 2001
23-Feb-06	NSW	<b>NIC's land leasing scheme in breach of human rights</b>	Tom Calma, the Social Justice Commissioner for Human Rights has criticised the National Indigenous Council's recommendations for a land leasing scheme as a "breach of international human rights standards and obligations". The recommendations included an option to "compulsorily acquire indigenous land where consent to leases is 'unreasonably' withheld". Mr Calma questioned the relevance and effectiveness of the proposal which was designed by ALP leader Warren Mundine.	Relevance and effectiveness of NIC leasing plan questioned	National Indigenous Times, 23-Feb-06, pg 11; Koori Mail, 15-Mar-06, pg 14.			

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24-Feb-06	WA	<b>Amendments to Mining Act 1978</b>	Reforms to the Mining Act 1978 came into effect in early February aimed to "modernise WA's mining law and encourage long-term mineral exploration". It is designed to cut the back log of mining leases in WA by allowing for exploration where applicants do not want to commence full-scale mining. Applicants are provided with a 12 month window from the date of proclamation to apply for reversion titles.	Mining lease legislation	Golden Mail, 24-Feb-06, pg 11.			
24-Feb-06	NT	<b>Housing proposal in remote communities</b>	Housing Minister Elliot McAdam has proposed a housing plan that CLP Housing spokesman Richard Lim says can be sourced from mining royalties paid to the Aboriginal Benefits Account. He said that Aboriginal people were "making huge income but not using it in a way that will further their benefits from the money".	Housing options proposed	Centralian Advocate, 24-Feb-06, pg 12.			

28-Feb-06	VIC	<b>Lack of consultation with Aboriginal people over cultural sites</b>	Alan Carriage, president of the Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation has raised concerns over the lack of consultation with traditional owners. The proposed long wall mining in the Westcliff Colliery Area 5 threatens writing trees, which are the only written Aboriginal language in Australia. The Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Collective Inc (NIAC) has written a submission to the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage noting that "Aboriginal culture and heritage...has been ignored by a recklessly flawed, grossly inadequate, and cultural inappropriate consultation with tradition owners".	Ongoing	Wollondilly Advertiser, 28-Feb-06, pg 3; Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser, 1-Mar-06, pg 107.			
01-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Iron ore mining to resume on Koolan Island</b>	Mark McGowan the West Australian Environment minister has allowed Aztec Resources to resume mining on Koolan Island. However there are "strict conditions " and consultations with the Dambimangari Native Title Claimants to ensure that "Indigenous and other environmental values" are protected.	Mine reopened	Mining Chronicle, March 2006, pg 14.	Claimant Application: Dambimangari - Tribunal File Number: WC99/7; Federal Court File Number: WAD6061/98	Lynda Strawbridge	
01-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Council waiting to resume native title land</b>	The Emerald Shire Council is waiting to resume crown land for the Gemfields retirement units. Bryan Ottone the Council's CEO has said that " as soon as this process was completed the land would then be free-hold with part of the process including the Native Title Process."	Land resumption proposed	Central Queensland News, 1-Mar-06, pg 12.			

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01-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Western Yalanji people granted native title</b>	The Western Yalanji people have been granted native title over two parcels of perpetual lease (pastoral property) land north-west of Cairns. Western Yalanji spokesman Danny O'Shane said that the grant is seen as an "opportunity for business development" in tourism while enabling the Yalanji to "carry out traditional rights". He also said that through the negotiations he hoped to "achieve outcomes that will provide opportunities for [Indigenous] people". The determination also provides a positive outlook for four other pending claims in Northern Queensland	Native title granted	Koori Mail, 1-Mar-06, pg 10.	Western Yalanji People #3 - Tribunal File Number: QC98/39; Federal Court File Number: QUD6089/98		
01-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Concerns ILUAs over Adjahdura Land are being negotiated by non-traditional owners</b>	Objections have been raised by the traditional owners of Adjahdura land to an ILUA that has been negotiated with non traditional owners. Even though some traditional owners have been on the negotiating committees they were given little control and "used like pawns". The ILUA "offers very little" but has been registered with the NNTT despite protest. The traditional owners have officially stated that they " do not recognise the Narungga local government ILUA as being law on this country".	Adjahdura Land Traditional Owners Group formed	Koori Mail, 1-Mar-06, pg 23.	Narungga Local Government: S12003/004	Greg Jervis	

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01-Mar-06	NT	<b>Issue whether native title will impede uranium mining</b>	In light of Prime Minister John Howard's decision to allow uranium mining, the NT minerals council has said that clauses in agreements between the CLC and mining companies "prevented new mines from opening" since "provisions are worded such that companies cannot look for uranium". However, CLC director David Ross has said that "the decision to mine uranium rested on traditional owners" and that "the CLC does not have a policy on uranium".	Debate continues	Centralian Advocate, 1-Mar-06, pg 2.			
01-Mar-06	NT	<b>Government rejects Xstrata proposal for open cut mining</b>	The NT's environment minister's refusal to approve Xstrata's proposed open cut mining at the McArthur river has been based on "environmental grounds". Traditional owners were also opposed to the mine's expansion while the Mawurli and Wirriwankuma Aboriginal Corporation, which does shipping for the mine, supported continuing the mine. Samuel Evens MWAC's chairman recognised the economic benefits of the mine noting that "I ...know what benefits the mine brings to the Borroloola community both now and what is potentially available in the future".	Differing views of the McArthur mine continue	Katherine Times, 1-Mar-06, pg 3, 6; Koori Mail, 15-Mar-06, pg 15.			

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02-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Prime Minister admits to mistakes made while in office</b>	Prime Minister John Howard has admitted that he took too long to respond to the Wik land rights decision in 1997.	NA	Border Mail, 2-Mar-06, pg 12; Townsville Bulletin, 2-Mar-06, pg 5; Illawarra Mercury, 2-Mar-06, pg 9; Newcastle Herald, 2-Mar-06, pg 4; Warrnambool Standard, 2-Mar-06, pg 6; Cairns Post, 2-Mar-06, pg 11; Sunshine Coast Daily, 2-Mar-06, pg 4.	Tribunal File Number: QC94/3; Federal Court File Number: QUD6001/98	John Liston	The Wik and Wik Way Peoples are native title holders to 3 consent determinations with the NNTT. Wik and Wik-Way Peoples (3 October 2000) ; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 2 (24 March 2005); Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 3 (24 March 2005).
02-Mar-06	WA	<b>Dambimangari agree to mining operations on Koolan Island</b>	Aztec Resources has been given approval from environment Minister Mark McGowan to resume iron ore mining on Koolan Island. The company has signed an "in principle agreement" with the Dambimangari people who have a native title claim covering 27 937 sqkm of land and sea in the Kimberly area. The details of the agreement have not been disclosed but the Dambimangari are expected to received "training and job opportunities" in exchange for "mining operations and infrastructure".	Mining expected to resume on Koolan Island	Broome Advertiser, 2-Mar-06, pg 5; Kimberly Times, 2-Mar-06, pg 1; Business News, 2-Mar-06, pg 34.	Claimant Application: Dambimangari - Tribunal File Number: WC99/7; Federal Court File Number: WAD6061/98		

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02-Mar-06	NT	<b>Governments should approve mining projects that provide opportunities for long term growth</b>	The government has been accused of ignoring environmental and economic considerations in refusing the McArthur mine. The McArthur River has been recognised as the "only long term road to regional development" in the northern Barkly which would be independent of both tourism and government funds. The government has been criticised for ignoring the real problems: "the same Labor and trendy lefty social experimenters who left us and many other Aboriginal communities with ghetto-like living conditions now seek to starve communities of real opportunities that don't involve them or their make-believe job schemes that don't benefit anyone but themselves".	Ongoing discussion	Northern Territory News, 2-Mar-06, pg 13.			
03-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Chinese firm Chalco in the running for Aurukun mine</b>	The Chinese aluminium corporation Chalco seems likely to gain the lease to the bauxite deposit in Cape York. Even though Queensland Premier Peter Beattie has stressed that it is not a "done deal" he noted that Queensland "wanted more than just a mine" and "establish a partnership between the developer and the Aurukun indigenous community to provide long-term economic and social benefits".	Mining agreement pending	West Australian, 3-Mar-06, pg 35; Western Cape Bulletin, 9-Mar-06, pg 3.	ILUA: Aurukun Township & Access Road Agreement: Q101/26. Determination: Wik and Wik Way Peoples: QC94/3, QUD6001/98.	John Liston	The Wik and Wik Way Peoples are native title holders to 3 consent determinations. Wik and Wik-Way Peoples; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 2; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 3

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04-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Republic Gold proposes mining lease in Northcote and Tregoora</b>	Republic Gold is negotiating mining leases at Northcote and Tregoora within the Karma Waters Station area which is subject to a native title claim by the Western Yalanji people. A spokesman from Republic noted that they had "developed an excellent working relationship" and that "numerous site clearances have been made in the area by elders of the Western Yalanji [so that] no significant sites have been located in the proposed mining leases".	Mining leases continue to be negotiated	Cairns Post, 4-Mar-06, pg 41.	Western Yalanji Peoples - Tribunal File Number: QC95/10; Federal Court File Number: QUD6002/96		
04-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Cape York Indigenous community could receive \$112m from mining leases</b>	The Cape York Indigenous community could received \$112m from mining leases in the Aurukun region from Chalco. However both parties have said that "there is a long way to go" in the negotiations and "mining would only proceed on the traditional land if the agreement with the company was mutually satisfactory".	Mining negotiations continue	Courier Mail, 4-Mar-06, pg 9.	ILUA: Aurukun Township & Access Road Agreement: QI01/26. Determination: Wik and Wik Way Peoples: QC94/3, QUD6001/98.	John Liston	The Wik and Wik Way Peoples are native title holders to 3 consent determinations. Wik and Wik-Way Peoples; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 2; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 3



04-Mar-06	WA	<b>Claimants in the North West Cluster agree to negotiate rather than litigate</b>	Hearings in the Federal Court for the North West Cluster of native title claims have been cancelled with litigants opting for out-of-court settlements instead. Their "willingness to cooperate" had cleared the way for negotiations with the state. National Native Title Tribunal member Ruth Wade noted that "the exciting thing about the decision was that the claimants [had sent] a clear signal that they could do business among themselves and were ready to negotiate with others".	Negotiations with the state will begin	Kalgoorie Miner, 4-Mar-06, pg 5.			
07-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Traditional Mirarr people pressured into approving mining in Jabiluka</b>	The federal government has placed pressure on the Mirarr traditional owners to approve mining operations in Jabiluka the "richest undeveloped uranium deposit". The Mirarr have the right to veto mining at Jabiluka and the federal government has "implied" over a number of years to Mirarr representatives that "we will give you Jabiru, just give us Jabiluka". With the closing of the nearby Ranger mine the future of Jabiru is threatened with population decline and the loss of essential services.	Mining in Jabiluka still opposed	Age, 7-Mar-06, pg 5; Sydney Morning Herald, 7-Mar-06 pg 7.	Jabiru Township: Tribunal File Number: NC97/7. Federal Court Number: NTD6027/98	Anne Marie Cowley	
07-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Traditional owners boycott Commonwealth Games</b>	Traditional land owners in Victoria have "voted unanimously" to support a protest camp at Kings Domain during the Commonwealth games until "the Federal Government recognised indigenous sovereignty and worked towards a treaty".	Protest to be held in King's Domain between March 15 and 26.	Northcote Leader, 7-Mar-06, pg 9.			

07-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Marble miner wins right to mine over native title land</b>	<p>Robert Cameron has been granted a mining lease over traditionally owned land in Greenvale. Cameron distinguished between the preservation of culture and history and the desire to make money. He said that a large proportion of the population was concerned with "the preservation of history and culture but many traditional owners were willing to trade off their religion and faith for money". The Native Title Tribunal report also found that the traditional owners did not provide evidence of how the members enjoyed their interests and whether the land contained any culturally significant sites. The tribunal also held that "the granting of a lease would provide social and economic benefits for the local economy".</p>	Mining lease granted	Townsville Bulletin, 7-Mar-06, pg 6.			
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08-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Torres Strait Islander fisherman want fishing rights to be included under native title</b>	Torres Strait Island fisherman want to increase the current exclusive fishing zone as a "positive step" towards self determination. After previous meetings with the Protected Zone Joint Authority, legislation was enacted to implement a "10 nautical mile closure". The fishermen now hope that this ruling will establish a "precedent to move towards full indigenous control of Torres Strait fishing". They argue that benefits of fishing rights are "immeasurable" in achieving "economic independence" and can be "an industry that can take [them] off welfare".	Recommendations yet to be considered	Torres News, 8-Mar-06, pg 11.			
08-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Moyne Shire has granted traditional owners of Framlingham Forest a rate exemption</b>	The Moyne Shire has granted the traditional owners of the Framlingham Forest a rate exemption on the grounds that "the area is of significance to local indigenous people and is recognised as a place of...historical and environmental importance". In exchange the traditional owners must allow restricted public access for recreation and research.	Traditional owners of Framlingham Forest receive rate exemption	Warrnambool Standard. 8-Mar-06, pg 3; Terang Express, 16-Mar-06, pg 1.			
09-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Henry Reynolds defends terra nullius</b>	Historian Henry Reynolds has defended <i>terra nullius</i> and "maintains that British settlers never recognised the property rights of Aborigines". He questioned Michael Connors recent book saying that he "was trying to force together history and land and did not understand the High Court had based its Mabo decision on precedent using his book as "background".	Debate over <i>terra nullius</i> continues	Australian, 9-Mar-06, pg 8.			

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13-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Horsham City Council withdraws from land claim</b>	The Horsham Rural city council has been able to withdraw from the Gournditch-Mara Peoples native title claim after the boundaries of the contested area were redrawn. This coincides with the council's view that "it is no longer justifiable or appropriate for the council to be involved in the claim".	Council withdraws from land claim	Wimmera Mail Times, 13-Mar-06, pg 7.	Gunditjmara - Tribunal File Number: VC99/7; Federal Court File Number: VID6004/98	Nadja Mack	
17-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Xstrata places pressure on the NT government to reverse decision</b>	Xstrata has placed pressure on the NT government reverse its decision to reject the mining conversion plan. The government is "divided" over whether to approve the plan "which is strongly opposed by environmentalists and some Aboriginal groups but backed by local businesses". X-strata has reiterated that "hundreds of jobs would be lost" if the application was rejected.	Government decision expected in a week	Age, 13-Mar-06, pg 6; Sydney Morning Herald, 13-Mar-06, pg 5; Northern Territory News 20-Mar-06, pg 4; Australian, 17-Mar-06, pg 7.			
14-Mar-06	VIC	<b>Stolenwealth games protest continues</b>	ANTar (Australian for Native Title and reconciliation) continue their protest in Melbourne to coincide with the commonwealth games by staging a "visual protest" demanding a treaty over land.	Protest continues	Age, 14-Mar-06, pg 7; Daily Mercury, 14-Mar-06, pg 12; Daily News, 14-Mar-06, pg 7; Gladstone Observer, 14-Mar-06, pg 11; Gympie Times, 14-Mar-06 pg 6; Herald Sun, 14-Mar-06, pg 27; Morning Bulletin, 14-Mar-06, pg 14; News Mail, 14-Mar-06, pg 12; Queensland Times, 14-Mar-06, pg 12; Daily Advertiser, 14-Marc-06, pg 17.			

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15-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Hearings for Goldfields claims replaced with mediation</b>	Hearings in the Federal Court for the North West Cluster of native title claims have been cancelled with litigants opting for out-of-court settlements instead. Brian Wyatt the executive director of the Goldfields Land and Sea Council said that the claimants "should be congratulated on their willingness to cooperate" and showing a preference for negotiations. However he also commented on the resistance of the state to negotiations. He said that "every step of the way the State government appears hell bent on diminishing Goldfields Aboriginal People's rights" which is an "irresponsible drain on taxpayers who fund the State's court actions".	Negotiations on consent determinations will start early 2007	Koori Mail, 15-Mar-06, pg 16.			
15-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Indigenous groups compete for land claims on Sunshine Coast</b>	Factions within the Kabi Kabi community are competing for native title claims in land from Childers to Redcliffe on the Sunshine coast. The Noosa Council report states that the "applications overlap but are not identical, do not seek ownership of all lands within the claim area [but] only lands eligible for native title".	Claims continue	Sunshine Coast Daily, 15-Mar-06, pg 9; Fraser Coast Chronicle, 16-Mar-06, pg 7.	Kabi Kabi People: QC06/3, QUD12/06 (13/01/06). Kabi Kabi #2: QC06/6, QUD65/06	Ann Stokes	

15-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>North West Nations Clans Aboriginal Corporation claims proposed Victorian Bill is 'genocidal'</b>	The North West Nations Clans Aboriginal Corporation has claimed that the Victorian government's proposed Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill as "genocidal in intent and purpose". Spokesman Elder Robert Nicholls said that the bill "'disappeared' all traditional owner groups in name and country". He also said that "all developers and land proponents should deal directly with traditional owners" without "interference of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria's mission managers".	North West Nations Clans continue to oppose bill	Koori Mail, 15-Mar-06, pg 15.			
15-Mar-06	NSW	<b>Native Title Claims over County of Finch fall over</b>	Native title claims over the County of Finch have ended after the claimant's solicitor withdrew the claim. The claim has failed due to disagreement between claimants and a lack of funding. Landholders in County of Finch now operate "as though native title had been extinguished".	Native Title in County of Finch now considered as extinguished	Black Opal Advocate, 15-Mar-06, pg 5.			
16-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Fifth anniversary of Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement (WCCCA)</b>	The WCCCA was signed on 14 March 2001 between Traditional Owners, Comalco, the Cape York Land Council, Aurukun, Napranum, Mapoon and New Mapoon under which money is paid to trusts "to be spent on long term investments, employment and training initiatives". Comalco General Manager Rob Atkinson said that "we rely on Aboriginal land to mine and we want to makes sure that local people benefit through a range of opportunities".	WCCCA continues to operate	Western Cape Bulletin, 16-Mar-06, pg 3.			

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16-Mar-06	WA	<b>Radio astronomy park proposed over Wajarri Yamatji land</b>	The Western Australian government has proposed a radio astronomy park on Mileura Station. The park is a part of Australia's "bid to win the international \$1.7 billion Square Kilometre Array project". The Science and Innovation Minister Francis Logan has said that negotiations were "underway with Wajarri Yamatji native title claimant group".	Radio astronomy park will be built on Mileura Station	Business News, 16-Mar-06, pg 4.	Wajarri Yamatji - Tribunal File Number: WC04/10; Federal Court File Number: WAD6033/98	Trish Sinclair-Jones	
17-Mar-06	TAS	<b>Tasmanian Greens promise more land will be returned</b>	The Tasmanian Greens have pledged to return land to the Indigenous community by severing Crown land leases. Even though the specific details of the hand back have not been discussed the Greens have emphasised that the return of land is a matter of "political will to recognise the interests of Tasmanian Aboriginal community" rather than expense.	Land hand-back announced as Greens election policy	Launceston Examiner, 17-Mar-06, pg 8.			
17-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Kabi Kabi native title claim</b>	The Kabi Kabi people have lodged a native title claim with the Federal Court over land "extending between Childers and the Isis River in the north to the Redcliffe and the Pine River in the south". The claim also includes "Bribie Island, coastal areas to low water and inland areas".	Kabi Kabi lodge land claim	News Mail, 17-Mar-06, pg 4.	Kabi Kabi People: QC06/3, QUD12/06 (13/01/06). Kabi Kabi #2: QC06/6, QUD65/06	Ann Stokes	

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18-Mar-06	NSW	<b>Land claim in Wagga rejected</b>	Land Minister Tony Kelly has rejected a native title claim over land in Wagga based on NSW Native Title legislation. He said that "when the claim was made the land was not claimable Crown land within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983".	Land claim refused	Daily Advertiser, 18-Mar-06, pg 10.			
18-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Kaurareg honour Billy Wasaga</b>	Billy Wasaga has died and will be honoured for leading the Kaurareg people in a "land mark victory" in 2001 when the Federal Court recognised the Kaurareg as traditional owners of islands in the Torres Strait area.	NA	Cairns Post, 18-Mar-06, pg 8.	Kaurareg People #2 - Tribunal File Number: QC96/7; Federal Court Number: QUD6024/98. Kaurareg People #5 - Tribunal File Number: QC96/10; Federal Court Number: QUD6027/98. Kaurareg People #4 - Tribunal File Number: QC96/9; Federal Court Number: QUD6026/98. Kaurareg People #1 - Tribunal File Number: QC96/6 Federal Court Number: QUD6023/98 Kaurareg People #3 - Tribunal File Number: QC96/8 Federal Court Number: QUD6025/98	Jane Holden	All 5 consent determinations were handed down on the 23rd of May 2001



18-Mar-06	WA	<b>CALM management plan attempts to balance mining, tourism and conservation</b>	The Department of Conservation and Land Management has proposed a new management plan for reserve land in northern Yilgarn and has sought comment from relevant stakeholders. Goldfields executive director Brian Wyatt said that the rep body would make a submission but "he expected the plan would be in accordance with their MOU with CALM".	CALM plan to be negotiated	Kalgoorlie Miner, 18-Mar-06, pg 7.			
19-Mar-06	ACT	<b>Aboriginal Corporations oppose government regulation</b>	Aboriginal corporations have resited the government's Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 aimed to "bring indigenous corporations in line with others under the..Corporations Act". However, Goldfield's director Brian Wyatt has said that the "Corporations Act was aimed at profit making ventures" while Aboriginal corporations were created to provide services that where the Government has been "'incapable or unwilling' to do so". He said that the proposed legislation was inappropriate and "can only be regarded as punitive and oppressive".	Legislation proposed	Sunday Canberra Times, 19-Mar-06, pg 8.			

20-Mar-06	QLD	<b>Tableland Yidinji's claim smaller than feared by property owners</b>	North Queensland Land Council has tried to clarify misunderstandings of the extent of the Tableland Yidinji claim over land around Atherton, Tolga, Kairi and Lake Tinaroo. The council's senior legal officer said that "misunderstandings that 'houses' could be stolen by Aboriginal people" were "unfounded and that the rights of the claim were limited to non-freehold land for traditional access". He also commented on the loss of sacred areas when a dam was built in the 1950s. He hoped that the current claim would ensure this would "never ever reoccur".	ILUA will be finalised in coming months	Cairns Post, 20-Mar-06, pg 7.	Tableland Yidinji People #3 - Tribunal File Number: QC04/10; Federal Court File Number: QUD208/04	Karrell Ross	
21-Mar-06	NATIONAL	<b>Development on Aboriginal land will provide opportunities for traditional owners on NSW South Coast</b>	An agreement between LV Living and the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council to build a retirement village on Aboriginal owned land will provide "job opportunities and a superannuation fund". David Brown the LV Living chairman said that the "land councils would receive long-term income and the deal was an important step in their economic growth". LV Living will have the right to mortgage the property but the community's title to the land would not be diminished.	LV Living set to build retirement village over Aboriginal land	Australian, 21-Mar-06, pg 3.			

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21-Mar-06	WA	<b>Wongatha people issue declaration claiming sovereignty</b>	The Wongatha People have made a declaration claiming sovereignty over land in Laverton, Menzies and Leonora. The declaration is considered to be a "national first" and will be distributed to mining companies and the State and Federal governments. The Federal Court is yet to hand down on a decision on the Wongatha claim. Aubrey Lynch, a spokesman for Wongatha has said that "[they] need to be consulted in the way of the programs and progress of [their] country". He also said that they wanted people to recognise their ownership in the land, "if white men have freehold property they've got the rights to that property but we haven't got rights to the land that we own".	Federal Court Justice expected to hand down decision on Wongatha claim	Kalgoorie Miner, 21-Mar-06, pg 3.	Wongatha - Tribunal File Number: WC99/1; Federal Court Number: WAD6005/98	Kristina Nilsson	
22-Mar-06	NT	<b>X strata given second chance for mine conversion</b>	The NT's Mines Minister Kon Vatskalis has given Xstrata a "lifeline" in its attempt to redevelop the Macarthur River Mine". The Minister who has the "final say on the proposal sent the company back to the drawing board" to address environmental concerns even though its plans were rejected by the NT environment minister Marion Scrymgour.	Xstrata mining plan reconsidered	North West Star, 22-Mar-06, pg 5; Adelaide Advertiser, 22-Mar-06, pg 63; Sydney Morning Herald, 22-Mar-06, pg 31; Australian 21-Mar-06, pg 2.			

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23-Mar-06	WA	<b>Walmun excluded from discussions between KLC and State government</b>	The Walmun Yawuru people have fears that important cultural sites will be "negotiated away" in talks between the Kimberly Land Council and the State government. The Walmun and Rubibi belong to the Yawuru community, to which the Federal Court has acknowledged native title. However the a Walmun Yawuru woman, Robin Hanigan said that "Walmun Yawuru were faced with the position where the KLC and a select group of Rubibi representatives were approving all developments over Walmun Yawuru lands". They are hoping that the Federal Court will intervene by only approving PBC and Constitution where everyone is represented.	Walmun Yawuru hope for Federal Court intervention	Broome Advertiser, 23-Mar-06, pg 1; Kimberly Times, 23-Mar-06, pg 4.	Application: Walman Yawuru - Tribunal File Number: WC04/9; Federal Court File Number: WAD285/04. Determination: Rubibi # 6 - Tribunal File Number: WC95/28; Federal Court File Number: WAD91/98	Sandra Barkla	The Rubibi litigated determination was handed down on the 7th November 2001
23-Mar-06	WA	<b>Indigenous anglers seek traditional fishing rights</b>	Local Indigenous fisherman have voiced there concerns to Kimberly MLA Carol Martin over being ignored in new fishing laws. She said that "they're not recreational fisherman and they take their fish for subsistence". Ms Martin as noted that "they refuse to relinquish their right to harvest" which is legally covered under Native Title.	Traditional fishing rights need to be considered	Broome Advertiser, 23-Mar-06, pg 3.			

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23-Mar-06	WA	<b>Police presence at native title meeting intimidating</b>	A native title meeting in Mount Magnet has attracted police attention that organisers say was "ridiculous". The police claim that they were trying to avoid what happened in Meekatharra but Janice Strickland, organiser for the Budimia Land Corporation says that "it was an annual meeting of business people" that occurred "regularly" without "any trouble before". She also said that the presence was "intimidating and frightened people".	NA	Mid-West Times, 23-Mar-06, pg 5.			
24-Mar-06	ACT	<b>Tribunal rules native document should be released under FOI regardless of resource constraints</b>	Michael Peedom the president of the ACT Administrative Appeals Tribunal has granted the request of Ngunnawal member Eva Coe to release 143 files relating to native title. However the Community Affairs Subdivision has claimed that to comply with the ruling it "would require 14 senior officers...six support staff" and "144 days". The tribunal "acknowledged that processing the request would consume much time and resources" but held that those factors were "irrelevant".	Access to documents granted	Canberra Times, 24-Mar-06, pg 5.			

25-Mar-06	ACT	<b>Need for a more accountable and representative indigenous body</b>	<p>Bob McMullan former shadow minister for indigenous affairs has said that ATSIC was "flawed from the start". He suggested an Indigenous elected chairperson, National Indigenous Council, sub committees and a consultative forum which involved native title rep bodies. Labor's spokesman for indigenous affairs Chris Evans agreed saying that "we put too much faith in the capacity of the rights agenda to contribute to overcoming entrenched indigenous disadvantage". He also said that "indigenous representation is central to developing approaches that will overcome indigenous disadvantage".</p>	NA	Canberra Times, 25-Mar-06. pg 16.			
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